

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 EB-06 FMC-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CG-00

COA-01 DLOS-05 SWF-01 TRSE-00 L-02 OES-04 AF-10

ARA-10 EA-10 NEA-10 SS-15 NSC-05 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01

/131 W

----- 005288

R 061305Z NOV 74

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9052

INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL

UNCLAS GENEVA 6758

MONTREAL FOR USDEL TO ICAO

DEPT: PLEASE PASS ALSO TO N. E. JOHNSON, NOAA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG PORG WMO

SUBJECT: RESUMED SESSION OF CONFERENCE OF PLENIPOTENTIARY DELEGATIONS
(CPD) FOR NAOS)

SUMMARY: SUBJECT CONFERENCE NOW TAKING UP SUBSTANCE OF AGREEMENT.
BASED ON PRELIMINARY STATEMENTS BY DELEGATIONS THAT HAVE INDICATED
INTENTION TO PARTICIPATE, CONTRIBUTIONS FALL SHORT OF OPERATING COSTS
BY APPROXIMATELY HALF MILLION POUNDS. WORKING GROUP SET UP TO ATTEMPT
TO RESOLVE THIS SHORTFALL. SEVERAL MEMBERS APPEALED TO US TO CONSIDER
MAKING VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION UNDER ARTICLE 8 OF DRAFT AGREEMENT.

1. THE RESUMED CPD SESSION OPENED WITH ESSENTIALLY SAME 21 PART-
ICIPANTS AS FIRST PART OF CONFERENCE, WITH TUNISIA AS NEW MEMBER.
ONLY CANADA AND USA ATTENDING AS OBSERVERS.

2. AFTER OPENING CERMONY, CONFERENCE MET AS COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
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TO REVIEW PROPOSALS OF FIFTH INFORMAL PLANNING MEETING FOR NAOS AS

SET OUT IN DOCUMENT CPD 24.

3. IN COUNTRY BY COUNTRY STATEMENT OF INTENTIONS TO PARTICIPATE IN AGREEMENT, 18 COUNTRIES REPLIED POSTIVELY, SOME WITH AN INDICATION OF EXPECTED CONTRIBUTIONS. THE TOTAL OF THOSE GIVING SPECIFIC AMOUNTS APPROXIMATED 700,000 POUNDS STERLING. OPERATING COUNTRIES, THAT IS FRANCE, NETHERLANDS, UK AND USSR, WERE NOT ASKED TO STATE FIGURES AT THIS TIME. HOWEVER, ON BASIS OF SCALE OF CONTRIBUTIONS PRESENTED IN DOCUMENT REFERENCED ABOVE, THERE CONTRIBUTIONS TOGETHER WITH FRG AND ITALY SHOULD TOTAL ABOUT 75 PERCENT.

4. ON BASIS THESE PRELIMINARY STATEMENTS AND INDICATED TOTAL COST OF OPERATION OF A 4-STATION NETWORK OF 4,600,000 POUNDS, SHORTFALL IN CONTRIBUTIONS WOULD APPROXIMATE 500,000 POUNDS.

5. IN LIGHT THIS SIGNIFICANT DISCREPANCY, CHAIRMAN SET UP WORKING GROUP OF 9, TO CONSIDER FOLLOWING QUESTIONS: COST OF NETWORK; SCALE OF CONTRIBUTIONS; REIMBURSEMENT OF COSTS; AMORTIZATION OF VESSELS AND FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS. GROUP EXPECTED TO MEET ALL DAY WEDNESDAY. COMMITTEE OF WHOLE WILL TAKE UP REPORT THURSDAY.

6. GROUP WILL WORK ON BASIS OF TWO COST FIGURES FOR 4-STATION NETWORK, A) 3.9 MILLION POUNDS AT BEGINNING OF AGREEMENT MID-1975, WHEN UK WILL BE USING PRESNET SHIPS; AND B) 4,610,000 POUNDS AT BEGINNING OF 1977, WHEN REFURBISHED SHIPS WILL BE USED.

7. USSR COSTS FOR OPERATING STATION C WITH 3 VESSELS NOW GIVEN AS 1,600,000 POUNDS. SECRETARY BELIEVES THIS FIGURE IS BASED ON UK COSTS USING NEW SHIPS AND IS 300,000 POUNDS HIGHER THAN FIGURES GIVEN IN CORRESPONDENCE BEFORE OPENING OF SESSION. EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO GET SOVIET AGREEMENT TO REDUCE THIS FIGURE TO 1,300,000 POUNDS.

8. DURING DEBATE, US OBSERVER MADE FOLLOWING STATEMENT: QUOTE. DURING THE FIRST PART OF THIS PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE THE US OBSERVER STATED THE UNITED STATES HAD WITHDRAWN FROM THE ICAO NAOS AGREEMENT FOR BUDGETARY REASONS. IT NEVERTHELESS SUPPORTED IN PRINCIPLE SUCH METEOROLOGICAL NETWORKS AS INTEGRAL PART OF THE WORLD WEATHER WATCH AND WAS REVIEWING THE POSSIBILITY-
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IES OF A USEFUL ROLE THE US MIGHT TAKE IN THE PROPOSED WMO AGREEMENT.

THIS REVIEW HAS BEEN COMPLETED. IT HAS REAFFIRMED US ENDORSEMENT OF THE NAOS SCHEME PROPOSED UNDER THE WMO AS A VALUABLE SOURCE OF METEOROLOGICAL DATA THAT WOULD PROVIDE SIGNIFICANT ASSISTANCE TO BOTH EUROPEAN WEATHER SERVICES AND TO THE WORLD WEATHER WATCH.

AS POSITIVE EVIDENCE OF THIS VIEW, THE US IS OPERATING DURING

CERTAIN SEASONS OF THE YEAR WHEN WEATHER CONDITIONS JUSTIFY, A FULL-SCALE OCEANWEATHER STATION AT THE OLD NAOS LOCATION HOTEL. THE REPORTS FROM THIS STATION ARE PROVIDED PROMPTLY TO ALL COUNTRIES VIA THE GLOBAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM. WE ARE ALSO CONTINUING MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS OF OTHER METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVING SYSTEMS, PARTICULARLY SPACE-BASED SYSTEMS, TO EXPAND THE SOURCES OF WEATHER DATA OVER THE NORTH ATLANTIC, AS WELL AS OTHER OCEAN AREAS AROUND THE GLOB.

HOWEVER, OUR REVIEW OF THE PROPOSED NAOS SCHEME HAS SHOWN THAT THE ANTICIPATED COSTS OF THE US PARTICIPATION, EITHER AS A CONTRIBUTOR OR AS AN OPERATOR, WOULD BE UNACCEPTABLE. AS A CONTRIBUTING MEMBER, THE US PART IN THE COST-SHARING ARRANGEMENT UNDER THE PROPOSED AGREEMENT HAS BEEN PROJECTED TO BE OF THE ORDER OF 25 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL REIMBURSABLE COSTS. AS AN OPERATING MEMBER, INDICATIONS ARE THAT, WITH SPIRALLING INFLATION, SHIP-OPERATING COSTS WOULD BE SUBSTANTIALLY ABOVE THOSE EXPERIENCED BY US SHIPS AS OPERATED UNDER THE ICAO-NAOS AGREEMENT.

IN LIGHT OF THIS REVIEW, THE US HAS DETERMINED THAT IT WILL BE UNABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROPOSED NETWORK OF OCEAN STATIONS. THE UNITED STATES WILL CLOSELY OBSERVE THE OPERATION OF THE NETWORK AND THE BENEFITS DERIVED FROM IT AFTER IT IS INITIATED NEXT JULY. OUR POSITION WITH RESPECT TO THE CONTINUING PROGRAM WILL REMAIN UNDER EXAMINATION AS ECONOMIC AND SCIENTIFIC CONDITIONS CHANGE OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS. END QUOTE.

9. IN VIEW OF FACT THAT SOME PARTICIPANTS INDICATED THAT THEIR CONTRIBUTION WAS A MAXIMUM AMOUNT, SEVERAL MEMBERS EXPRESSED CONCERN PRIVATELY TO US OBSERVER THAT SHORTFALL OF RELATIVELY MODEST AMOUNT MAY PREVENT FULL AGREEMENT ON PROPOSED NETWORK. DURING BREAK IN MEETING, OBSERVER WAS ASKED WHETHER US WOULD CONSIDER MAKING VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION AS PROVIDED FOR IN ARTICLE 8 OF DRAFT AGREEMENT. THEY POINTED TO FACT THAT US DECISION NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN PROGRAM IS BASED ON ASSUMPTION UNCLASSIFIED

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THAT SUCH PARTICIPATION WOULD INVOLVE 25 PERCENT SHARE OF TOTAL COSTS (OR OPERATION OF ONE STATION). THEIR ARGUMENT IS THAT EVEN TOKEN CONTRIBUTION BY US WOULD NOT ONLY HELP FILL GAP IN TOTAL BUT WOULD STIMULATE OTHERS TO ADOPT MORE GENEROUS ATTITUDE TOWARD FINDING SOLUTION.

10. US OBSERVER AGREED TO RAISE QUESTION BUT INDICATED IT UNLIKELY THAT ANSWER COULD BE OBTAINED IN TIME TO BE USEFUL BEFORE END OF PRESENT CONFERENCE. EARLY INDICATION AS TO WHETHER THIS QUESTION WILL BE EXAMINED (OR HAS BEEN EXAMINED) WOULD BE APPRECIATED. DALE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974GENEVA06758
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740319-0196
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741167/aaaaceyg.tel
Line Count: 165
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 SEP 2002 by chicheje>; APPROVED <11 FEB 2003 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RESUMED SESSION OF CONFERENCE OF PLENIPOTENTIARY DELEGATIONS (CPD) FOR NAOS
TAGS: AORG, WMO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005